

EDWARD LUSHER.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 832.]

JUNE 13, 1860.

Mr. MOORHEAD, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Commerce having been instructed by the resolution to inquire into the claim of Oliver Bascom, assignee of Edward Lusher, for services in taking care of a dredge-boat for the United States at Whitehall, in the State of New York, report:

That Mr. Lusher was placed in charge of the dredge-boat by letter of the 8th of December, 1853, at a compensation of one dollar per day.

That in 1854 his account was settled; and again, in 1855, a settlement was made to the 23d of April.

It further appears that Mr. Lusher was continued in charge of said dredge-boat; and Colonel Abert, in relation thereto, says, "there would appear to be due to Mr. Lusher for his services, from April 24, 1855, to May 31, 1860, inclusive, \$1,497."

As this sum is not the result of an examination by the accounting officers, your committee have instructed me to report a bill to settle said accounts after the same shall have undergone a thorough investigation, as suggested by the chief of the Bureau of Engineers in his letter hereto annexed.

BUREAU OF TOPOGRAPHICAL ENGINEERS,
Washington, May 29, 1860.

SIR: In answer to the letter of the Hon. E. B. Washburne, chairman of the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, enclosing a resolution of inquiry into the claim of Oliver Bascom, assignee of Edward Lusher, for taking care of a dredge-boat at Whitehall, New York, I have the honor of transmitting herewith copies of the papers relating to the claim.

As will be seen from the correspondence, Mr. Lusher was, in a letter of December 8, 1853, placed in charge of a dredge-boat at

Whitehall; and that from the date of receipt of this letter he was to be entitled to one dollar per day for his services.

In July, 1854, Mr. Lusher presented an account for his services, amounting to \$208, which was examined and sent to the Third Auditor, with a request that it be paid.

In 1855 a bill was presented by Mr. Lusher for his services from June 26, 1854, to April 23, 1855, amounting to \$227, with a letter from the commissioners for the improvement of Big Chazy river, showing the length of time the boat was in their possession, to wit: 74 days, leaving the number of 227 days that the boat was under the charge of Mr. Lusher. This account was sent to the Auditor on the 1st of May, 1855, with a request that the amount be remitted to him.

Presuming those accounts to have been paid through the accounting officers, there would be due to Mr. Lusher for his services from April 24, 1855, to May 31, 1860, inclusive, \$1,497.

Should an appropriation be made for the payment of this arrearage the settlement will be made in the office of the Third Auditor, in which it will be thoroughly investigated.

Respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

J. J. ABERT,
Colonel Corps Engineers.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.